

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 10 through 12 and 18 through 21 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 4 through 9, 13, 15, 16, and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing image data, the apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying a playback ~~procedure of the~~ order of a plurality of pieces of image data;

detecting means for detecting date information of the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playback ~~procedure~~ order specified by said specifying means;

playlist processing means for generating playlist data indicating the playback ~~procedure~~ order specified by said specifying means; ~~and~~

date generating means for generating date information of the playlist data, ~~based on the image data's~~ for use in sorting the playlist data, by using date information of one of the plurality of pieces of image data detected by said detecting means; and

recording means for recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium, the date information of the playlist data being recorded separately from the plurality of pieces of image data's date information.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording means generates a playlist file including the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data, and records the playlist file on the recording medium.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising means for storing a generation date of the playlist data.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the playlist processing means~~ said date generating means generates the date information of the playlist data ~~based on~~ by using date information of image data that is to be played back first among the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playlist data.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the playlist processing means~~ said date generating means generates the date information of the playlist data ~~based on~~ by using date information of image data that is to be played back last among the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playlist data.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the playlist processing means~~ said date generating means generates the date information of the playlist data ~~based on~~ by using date information of image data having date information indicating an oldest date among the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playlist data.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the playlist processing means~~ said date generating means generates the date information of the playlist data ~~based on by using~~ date information of image data having date information indicating a latest date among the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playlist data.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means further generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data ~~based on by using~~ one of the plurality of pieces of the image data specified in the playlist data, and the recording means further records the thumbnail image data of the playlist data in association with the playlist data on the recording medium.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein ~~the playlist processing means~~ said date generating means generates the date information of the playlist data ~~based on by using the~~ date information of the one image data selected from the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playlist data, and the playlist processing means generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data based on the image data selected.

10 - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim #2 1, further comprising:

playback means for playing back the plurality of pieces of image data, the playlist data, and the date information of the playlist data from the recording medium; and

display control means for sorting the plurality of pieces of image data and the playlist data in accordance with the date information of the plurality of pieces of image data and the date information of the playlist data and for displaying information regarding the plurality of pieces of image data and information regarding the playlist data recorded on the recording medium, in an order ~~based on~~ of the sorted result by the date information.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a recording medium that allows random access.

15. (Currently Amended) A signal processing method for processing image data, the method comprising the steps of:

specifying a playback ~~procedure of the order of a plurality of pieces of~~ image data;

detecting date information of the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playback ~~procedure~~ order specified by said specifying step;

generating playlist data indicating the playback procedure specified by said specifying step; ~~and~~

generating date information of the playlist data, ~~based on the image data's~~ for use in sorting the playlist data, by using date's information of one of the plurality of pieces of image data information detected by said detecting step; and

recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium, the date information of the playlist data being recorded separately from the plurality of pieces of image data's date information.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing image data and playlist data indicating a playback ~~procedure of the~~ order of a plurality of pieces of image data, the apparatus comprising:

detecting means for detecting date information of the plurality of pieces of image data specified in the playback ~~procedure~~ order indicated by the playlist data;

playlist processing means for generating date information of the playlist data, ~~based on the image data's~~ for use in sorting the playlist data, by using date information of one of the plurality of pieces of image data detected by said detecting means; and

recording means for recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium, the date information of the playlist data being recorded separately from the plurality of pieces of image data's date information.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 16, further comprising:

playback means for playing back the plurality of pieces of image data, the playlist data, and the date information of the playlist data from the recording medium; and

display control means for sorting the plurality of pieces of image data and the playlist data ~~on the basis of~~ in accordance with the date information of the plurality of pieces of image data

and the date information of the playlist data and for displaying information regarding the plurality of pieces of image data and information regarding the playlist data in the sorted order.

18 - 21. (Cancelled)